having at least one year's experience as bench clerks or lawyers, (5) the allotment of grants to the Professors of the college to enable them to visit other colleges and attend Conferences, and (6) the utilisation of indigenous talent in a larger measure than hitherto.

Dewan's reply.—I thank you for your suggestions. They will receive the attention of Government.

149. Some suggestions for improving the condition of the Muslim community.

Mr. K. A. Picha Bava Sahib (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) first represented that the Koran, highly revered by Mahomedans, should be removed from courts of law, as they were being handled there by members of all communities without purifying their body and mind.

He then requested the Government to consider favourably the following suggestions for the improvement of his community:—

(1) the appointment of two more Mahomedan members on the Economic Development Board in view of the fact that the members of the community had a large share in the trade and industry of the land;

(2) the entertainment of more Mahomedans in the public service;

(3) the importation of qualified Mahomedans from outside for appointment as Professors and tutors in the College and to fill a Judge's place in the High Court;

(4) the extension of the half-fee concession to Mahomedans in the Commercial School at Alleppey;

(5) the strict enforcement of the order of Government sanctioning an Arabic Munishi in all schools where not less than 25 Mahomedan pupils studied ;

(6) the teaching of Malayalam side by side with Arabic in Arabic schools;

(7) the sanction of small grants to the Arabic Patasalas, Mahomedan Night Schools and the Young Men's Mahomedan Association Reading Room at Alleppey;

(8) the introduction of compulsory education among Mahomedans in important Mahomedan centres;

(9) the holding of Muslim conferences in important Muslim centres and the holding of a Muslim educational conference once in two years to consider the ways and means of improving the education of the community;

(10) the institution of a Mahomedan electorate with right to return two members to the Legislative Council and four members to the Popular Assembly;

(11) the appointment of one Mahomedan each as a Judge and a Magistrate in all Panchayat Courts and in Bench Magistrates' Courts ;

(12) the abolition of the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance prevailing among Mahomedans in certain parts of the State and the substitution of the Mahomedan law of inheritance instead; and

(13) the declaration of the four important Mahomedan festival days of Mohurum, Barawafat, Ramzan and Bakrid as public holidays.

Mr. N. A. Navurkani Rowther (Member, Nominated) stated that, for improving the condition of the Muslim community, it was necessary that its members should be adequately represented on the various popular institutions in the country. He requested that six members be appointed to the Popular Assembly, three to the Legislative Council, two to each Municipality and a sufficient number to the Panchayat Courts and Bench Magistrates' Courts on the basis of the Mahomedan population in each locality.

The necessity for appointing a Mahomedan Judge in the Travancore High Court was then urged and the Member suggested that, in view of the paucity of competent hands in the State, the services of a qualified Mahomedan might be secured from British India.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dealing with the public service, the Member submitted that the Heads of the several Departments were slow in carrying out the orders of Government in the matter of preferring Mahomedan applicants and pointed out that Mahomedan employees in the lower ranks of the service were unable to get their legitimate promotion.

With a view to encourage education among Mahomedans, the Member suggested that the half-fee concession granted to their pupils in the Government schools might be extended to the grant-in-aid schools as well, and that Government might also grant recognition and grant to the several Arabic Schools and make arrangements for the introduction of the study of Malayalam in these schools. He also pleaded for the introduction, as an experimental measure, of compulsory education among Mahomedans in some taluks where the community was educationally backward.

150. Dispensing with the use of Koran in courts and granting holidays for Mahomedan festivals.

Mr. C. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) regretted that the Koran which the Mahomedans considered holy was being handled by all classes of people in law courts without undergoing the prescribed course of purification of mind and body and prayed that it might be ordered to be removed from all courts of law as in British India, the persons who had to swear by the Koran being instructed to bring the book with them. The best thing would be to stop swearing by the Koran, as it was not permitted under the Mahomedan religion.

The Member then requested that the Moharum, Barawafat, Ramzan and Bakrid which were Mahomedan holidays be declared public days throughout the State.

Dewan's reply.—The High Court say that there is no rule which makes it compulsory for a Mahomedan to swear on the Koran. Statements may be made in two ways, either by oath on the Koran or by a solemn affirmation. Your prayer is that the Koran should not be kept at all in Courts. I shall consult the High Court in the matter.

In regard to holidays, the question was brought up at several sessions of the Assembly and disposed of. Nevertheless, the matter will be re-examined in so far as two of the most important of the holidays are concerned.

Most of the points raised in the representations of Messrs. Picha Bava Sahib and Navurkani Rowther are not new. Statistics show that in 1096 a sufficient number of appointments were given to Mahomedans. If any qualified Mahomedan did not get an appointment, he could bring it to the notice of Heads of Departments or the Government, and then the matter could be considered.

In regard to promotions, they depend upon the nature of the work of the employees, the length of their service, etc.

The question of grants to Arabic schools is a new matter. You say that there are 1,000 Arabic schools and that 30,000 boys are attending them. The question requires examination.

As regards the representation of Mahomedans in the Assembly and in the Legislative Council, I may say that the principle of communal representation has not been accepted by this Government. In the absence of very good reasons the question cannot be re-opened.

Your other suggestions such as a larger representation of Mahomedans in the Economic Development Board, etc., will be considered.

151. Needs of the Muslim community in Changanachery.

Mr. M. A. Navurkani Rowther (Member, Nominated) submitted that about 4,000 Mahomedans were living in the town of Changanachery but that they were not sufficiently represented on the Municipal Council. Of the 18 members in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly